

Wisconsin, United States

April 15, 1950.

Professor Robert Tulasne,
Institute of Hygiene and Bacteriology,
Strasbourg, France.

Dear Professor Tulasne:

Thank you for your letter and the reprints which accompanied them.
Do I understand you correctly that you have not been able to recover
Boivin's C1 and C2 strains of *E. coli* in the S phase?

Under separate cover I have just sent you subcultures taken directly
from the tubes, preserved by the lyophil method, which were prepared
in June 1947 from the cultures that Dr. Boivin brought to Dr. Tatum and
myself at Yale University. I have just examined both of them, and would
conclude that they are also entirely rough, both by appearance of colonies,
and by the acriflavine test. However, in the hope that a small proportion
of the colonies may still be smooth, I am sending them on to you, in the
belief that you would be better able to recognize the smooth phase of
these strains.

During his visit to this country, Dr. Boivin discussed with Tatum
and myself the desirability of a joint attack on some of the genetic
problems raised by the phenomena of "directed mutation". Our early efforts
to reproduce the phenomenon were not successful, probably owing to the
condition of the cultures. Our attempts to communicate with Dr. Boivin
were interrupted by his unfortunate illness, and decease.

If you should find it possible to recover cultures of C1 and C2 with
which transformation can be demonstrated, I would appreciate it if you
would communicate with me. I am also in touch with Professor Tatum, at
Stanford University, who concurs in these sentiments.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics